Resolution prioritizing three key Urban Environmental Accords actions for adoption by the Commission on the Environment for the Commission and Department of the Environment to work on for Calendar Year 2006.

WHEREAS, In 1945 the leaders of 50 nations gathered in San Francisco to develop and sign the Charter of the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, The City of San Francisco was chosen by the United Nations to host UN World Environment Day 2005 during the historic 60th anniversary of the United Nations, and

WHEREAS, San Francisco sponsored a week long celebration with over 350 community-based environmental events for United Nations World Environment Day that was attended by Mayors from around the globe, and

WHEREAS, Every day of the World Environment Day week, the participating mayors met in Urban Environmental Accords sessions to share solutions to the challenges common to all mayors, discussing experiences and offering solutions to ensuring safe and clean energy, water, air, food, homes, and public spaces for our citizens, and

WHEREAS, Mayors acknowledged the importance of the obligations and spirit of the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, the 1992 Rio Earth Summit (UNCED), the 1996 Istanbul Conference on Human Settlements, the 2000 Millennium Summit, and the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, and

WHEREAS, Mayor Newsom initiated and signed the Urban Environmental Accords, recognizing that for the first time in history, a majority of the world’s population lives in cities, and Mayors and local policymakers have a unique opportunity to provide leadership in advancing sustainability, fostering vibrant economies, promoting social equity, and protecting the planet’s natural systems, and
WHEREAS, Under the leadership of San Francisco, 87 Mayors and Cities around the
world signed onto and began implementation of the Urban Environmental Accords, and

WHEREAS, The Accords state that between 2005 and 2012, cities should attempt to
implement as many of the 21 Accords as possible, with each city adopting three Accords
every year with progress recognized through a City Green Star Program - with 4 stars being
the objective, and

WHEREAS, The Commission on the Environment’s Policy Committee held a public
hearing on Monday, January 9, 2006, to hear input from the public on which Urban
Environmental Accords should be prioritized for the Commission and Department of the
Environment to work on for calendar year 2006; and

WHEREAS, at that hearing The Commission's Policy Committee and the Department
of the Environment considered all Accords in the context of the following criteria (1) political
opportunities to move issues forward in the coming year, (2) available budget and human
resources for implementation, (3) current national and regional impact, (4) public visibility
aspects, (5) issues that would bring together different coalitions effectively, (6) something
measurable that can be completed in a year, and

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee and staff reviewed progress made towards all
accords and identified three key Urban Environmental Accords actions for adoption by the
Commission on the Environment; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on the Environment at its March 28, 2006 Commission
meeting considered and adopted the following three key Urban Environmental Accords
actions for adoption to work on for calendar year 2006 based on the Commission’s Policy
Committee’s recommendations:
Action 12: Urban Nature. Pass legislation that protects critical habitat corridors and other key habitat characteristics (e.g. water features, food-bearing plants, shelter for wildlife, use of native species, etc.) from unsustainable development; and

Action 17: Environmental Health. Promote the public health and environmental benefits of supporting locally grown organic foods. Ensure that twenty percent of all city facilities (including schools) serve locally grown and organic food within seven years; and

Action 21: Water. Adopt municipal wastewater management guidelines and reduce the volume of untreated wastewater discharges by 10 percent in seven years through the expanded use of recycled water and the implementation of a sustainable urban watershed planning process that includes participants of all affected communities and is based on sound economic, social, and environmental principles; and

WHEREAS, Action 12 should be a fundamental base for implementing Action 8:

Action 8: Adopt urban planning principles and practices that advance higher density, mixed use, walkable, bikeable and disabled-accessible neighborhoods which coordinate land use and transportation with open space systems for recreation and ecological reconstruction, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Commission on the Environment adopts as priority actions for calendar year 2006 Urban Environmental Accords Actions 12, 17, and 21 and determines that Action 12 shall be a fundamental base for implementing Action 8.
I hereby certify that this Resolution was approved at the Commission on the

Monica Fish, Commission Secretary

VOTE: (Adopted 4-0) (2 Absent) (1 Vacant)

Ayes: Commissioners Desser, King, Mok and Wald

Noes: None

Absent: Commissioners Pelosi Jr. and Rodriguez